

**Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office
Arcata, California
Phone: 707/822-7201
Fax: 707/822-8411
<http://pacific.fws.gov>**

News Release



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Contact: Dr. MaryEllen Mueller (707) 822-7201
Ms. Vina Frye, (707) 822-7201

Nominations Requested for Trinity River Adaptive Management Working Group

A key milestone in the restoration of the Trinity River was reached in December 2000 when former Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt signed the Record of Decision for the Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report. This decision outlined a series of actions, including the formation of the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group, an advisory committee now being chartered by the Secretary of the Interior under provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463).

When the charter is renewed, this committee will give interested stakeholders an opportunity to provide recommendations on policy, management, and technical subjects related to the Trinity River Restoration Program. Specifically, the Working Group will provide advice on the effectiveness of management actions in achieving restoration goals, alternative courses of action to achieve those goals, the priority of restoration projects, funding priorities, and other program components.

The Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group, established by the Record of Decision is seeking nominations for members of the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group. A total of twelve to twenty members will be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior based on the nominations submitted.

Nominations should represent a broad cross-section of agencies, organizations, and groups that are not otherwise represented on the Trinity Management Council. These interests may include, but are not limited to: residents of the Trinity River basin, recreational and commercial fishermen, commercial and recreational boaters, power utilities, irrigators, forestry associations, farmers and ranchers, public trust interests, tribal interests, and the general public.

Nominees should be individuals authorized to speak on behalf of their respective constituent groups, with a demonstrated interest in and commitment to implementation of the Record of Decision. These representatives must also be free from any conflict of interest or financial gain resulting from the Trinity River Restoration Program.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the lead agency responsible for ensuring completion of the charter and receiving nominations for membership. Recommendations will be made to the Secretary of the Interior that result in a balanced committee with a broad-based cross-section of Trinity basin stakeholders. Nominees will be evaluated based upon the following criteria:

- Knowledge of and association with the Trinity River, its watershed, and related resources
- Knowledge of and experience in adaptive management
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively with competing interests

The Working Group will meet at least twice a year. While members serve without compensation, travel and subsistence expenses are reimbursable. Various technical subcommittees may be formed to assist in the operations of the Working Group. Upon selection, the committee will elect officers and develop working guidelines.

Nominations should be submitted by September 20, 2004 to:

Manager
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
California/Nevada Operations Office
Attn: Dr. Mary Ellen Mueller
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Nominations should include the following information:

Name and title or position of the nominee;
Contact information (mail, e-mail, telephone, fax);
Name and contact information of nominator (if self-nominated, so indicate);
Description of the group or interest represented;
Reasons why nominee should be appointed (not to exceed 2 pages);
Statement that nominee does not have a conflict of interest or receive financial gain from any group or program associated with the Trinity River Restoration Program;
Brief resume of nominee (not to exceed 2 pages);
One letter of reference (for self-nominated individuals only).

Questions concerning the nomination process may be directed to Vina Frye, Technical Support, for the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group at (707) 822-7201 e-mail: vina_frye@fws.gov or to MaryEllen Mueller, Designated Federal Official, at (916) 414-6464

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses 542 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also

oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.